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Security Council

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Letter dated 18 July 2017 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I am forwarding to you a letter dated 13 July 2017 from the Chair of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, established by Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), based on the Working Group's conclusions adopted on 18 April 2017 (S/AC.51/2017/2).

(*Signed*) **Liu** Jieyi
President of the Security Council

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Annex

At its 62nd formal meeting, on 14 February 2017, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict examined the fourth report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Somalia (S/2016/1098), covering the period from 1 April 2010 to 31 July 2016. At its 63rd meeting, on 18 April 2017, the Working Group adopted its conclusions on children and armed conflict in Somalia (S/AC.51/2017/2).

In follow-up to the recommendations of the Working Group and subject to and consistent with applicable international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011), 2068 (2012), 2143 (2014) and 2255 (2015), I am entrusted, in my capacity as Chair of the Working Group, with:

(a) Requesting you to ensure the effectiveness of the monitoring and reporting mechanism in Somalia and of the child protection component of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), including by allocating sufficient dedicated child protection capacity to the component to, inter alia, monitor and report on violations and abuses committed against children, mainstream child protection within the Mission, train the Mission personnel on child protection and engage in dialogue with parties to armed conflict on action plans and their implementation;

(b) Requesting you to ensure that the United Nations continues its advocacy for the release and reintegration of children associated with armed groups and armed forces and of children detained for their alleged association with armed groups, in particular the children detained in Puntland since March 2016 for their alleged association with Al-Shabaab;

(c) Requesting you to ensure that the United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting prioritizes its efforts to ensure that the action plans are fully implemented;

(d) Encouraging continued cooperation of the United Nations with AMISOM, including its Child Protection Officer, in particular on the protection of children arrested and captured during military and security operations;

(e) Inviting you to request UNSOM, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and other relevant United Nations agencies, within their respective mandates, to continue to strengthen their efforts to support the Federal Government of Somalia and regional authorities in fighting impunity, implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child, establishing effective age verification mechanisms, mainstreaming the specific needs and protection of children affected by armed conflict in all disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and security sector reforms and providing long-term rehabilitation and reintegration programmes to children.

(*Signed*) Olof **Skoog**
Chair
Security Council Working Group
on Children and Armed Conflict